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April 2011 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.4 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during April 2011, down 12 percent from April 2010. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,800 head, down 200 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 1,193 pounds, increased 8 pounds from last year.

During April there were 1,100 hogs slaughtered, up 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight, at 250 pounds, increased 4 pounds from last year. April sheep slaughter totaled 200 head, unchanged from April 2010. The average live weight decreased 8 pounds to 92 pounds from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.87 billion pounds in April, down 4 percent from the 4.01 billion pounds produced in April 2010.

Beef production, at 2.05 billion pounds, was 4 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.72 million head, down 4 percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 1,257 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.2 million pounds, 8 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 58,900 head, down 14 percent from April 2010. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from last year, at 296 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.79 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 8.63 million head, down 5 percent from April 2010.

The average live weight was up 4 pounds from the previous year, at 277 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.3 million pounds, was up 11 percent from April 2010. Sheep slaughter totaled 206,700 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, up 2 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2011 commercial red meat production was 16.1 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2010. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 4 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 10 percent.

April Ag Prices Received

Montana's April 2011 full month crop prices were higher when compared with March 2011. Winter wheat was \$6.88 per bushel, up \$0.19 from March, spring wheat was \$8.02 per bushel, up \$0.32, and durum wheat was \$8.59 per bushel, up \$0.92, feed barley was \$4.51 per bushel, up \$0.30, and malt barley was \$4.41 per bushel, up \$0.12 from March.

The mid-May price for alfalfa hay increased \$5.00 to \$85.00 per ton and all other hay rose \$5.00 to \$80.00 per ton. Mid-May grain prices were up when compared with April. The winter wheat price was \$7.45 per bushel, spring wheat was \$10.00 per bushel, malt barley was \$5.03 per bushel, and feed barley was \$4.77 per bushel.

The all milk price was \$20.70 per cwt in mid-May 2011, compared with \$20.20 per cwt in April and \$14.70 per cwt for April 2010.

Nationally, prices for April and changes from March were as follows: winter wheat was \$7.39 per bushel, up \$0.37, spring wheat was \$8.67 per bushel, up \$0.65, durum wheat was \$8.60 per bushel, up \$0.45, malt barley was \$4.25 per bushel, down \$0.07, feed barley was \$4.32 per bushel, up \$0.05, oats were \$3.53 per bushel, up \$0.25, steers and heifers were \$122.00 per cwt, up \$4.00, cows were \$78.90 per cwt, up \$3.70, calves were \$147.00 per cwt, down \$1.00, lambs were \$181.00 per cwt, up \$12.00, and all milk was \$19.60 per cwt, down \$0.80. April sheep prices were \$68.80 per cwt.

The U.S. mid-May winter wheat price was \$7.70 per bushel, spring wheat was \$9.20 per bushel, durum wheat was \$8.44 per bushel, malt barley was \$4.49 per bushel, feed barley was \$4.87 per bushel, and oats were \$3.49 per bushel, alfalfa hay was \$186.00 per ton, and all other hay was \$112.00 per ton. Steer and heifer prices were \$118.00 per cwt, cows were \$79.10 per cwt, calves were \$141.00 per cwt, and all milk was \$19.40 per cwt.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 174 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 1 point (0.6 percent) from April. The Crop Index is unchanged but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (1.9 percent). Producers received lower prices for cattle, corn, eggs, and strawberries and higher prices for hay, broilers, celery, and lettuce. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of wheat, cantaloupes, broilers, and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of cattle, corn, milk, and soybeans.

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month		Montana	U.S.
		Apr 2010	Mar 2011	Apr 2011	Apr 2011	Mar 2011	Apr 2010	15-May-11	15-May-11
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	4.51	6.69	6.88	7.39	+0.19	+2.37	7.45	7.70
Durum Wheat	Bu	4.15	7.67	8.59	8.60	+0.92	+4.44	na	8.44
Spring Wheat	Bu	5.65	7.70	8.02	8.67	+0.32	+2.37	10.00	9.20
All Wheat	Bu	4.97	7.22	7.48	8.04	+0.26	+2.51	8.68	8.19
All Barley	Bu	4.22	4.28	4.42	4.27	+0.14	+0.20	4.99	4.57
Feed Barley	Bu	2.38	4.21	4.51	4.32	+0.30	+2.13	4.77	4.87
Malt Barley	Bu	4.54	4.29	4.41	4.25	+0.12	-0.13	5.03	4.49
Oats	Bu	na	2.53	na	3.53	na	na	na	3.49
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	90.00	80.00	80.00	155.00	0.0	-10.00	85.00	186.00
All Other Hay	Ton	88.00	74.00	75.00	103.00	+1.00	-13.00	80.00	112.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	90.00	79.00	79.00	141.00	0.0	-11.00	84.00	169.00
All Milk	Cwt	14.70	19.20	20.20	19.60	+1.00	+5.50	20.70	19.40

na-not available.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Winter Wheat Production

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